

U.S. Disclaims Responsibility for Attacks on Soviet Ships

Following is the text of a U.S. note delivered to the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Moscow on April 3.

Press release 170 dated April 3

APRIL 3, 1963

By its notes of March 27 and of March 29, 1963,¹ the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presented protests by the Soviet Government against what it termed "piratical attacks" on the Soviet merchant vessel "L'gov" on March 17 and the Soviet merchant vessel "Baku" during the night of March 26-27 near Cuba. The notes asserted that although the attacks were perpetrated by Cuban counter-revolutionary groups, the United States Government encourages such activities and bears full responsibility for them.

The United States Government categorically rejects this charge. It wishes to remind the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that immediately after the recent attacks on Soviet merchant vessels an official spokesman stated that the United States Government is strongly opposed to, and is in no way associated with, such attacks.² This position was furthermore clearly set forth by President Kennedy in his press conference of March 21. The United States Government is taking every step necessary to insure that such attacks are not launched, manned or equipped from U.S. territory.

In taking vigorous action to prevent misuse of its territory, the Government of the United States trusts that the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will not misinterpret such action as indicating any change in United States opposition to Soviet military involvement in Cuba.